From: Gary Von Colln
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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I wish to express my opinion on the Proposed Final Judgment in the
Microsoft Antitrust case. I believe that the Proposed Final Judgment
is not just and the USDOJ should reject it. My reasons for this
belief can be summarized as:

1. It does not do enough to punish Microsoft.

2. It does not do enough to promote competition against the Microsoft
monopoly in operating systems and application programs.

I would like to see a remedy that did more to ensure that the entire
Microsoft Windows API is fully documented for anyone who is interested
in it. This should also apply to all file formats used by Microsoft
programs (Windows, Word, Excel, etc). Because of Microsoft's dominant
position in the market and its anticompetitive practices, all Windows
APIs and all Microsoft file formats should be considered open
standards. Microsoft should be allowed to add to and extend these
standards, but all additions and extensions must be openly documented
in a timely manner. There must be no hidden or secret APIs or file
formats that only Microsoft or its partners are able to use.

We must do this in order to promote competition in operating systems
and applications. From what I've read about it, the existing
settlement is too limited and full of loopholes to be effective in
this regard. For example, it does not stipulate that Microsoft
publish its file formats.

The success of the Internet is a good example of the societal
benefits that come from open software standards.

Although my familiarity with this case is limited to what I've
heard/read in the media, I feel that my 15 years of experience as a
software engineer in the computer industry gives me a good basis for
understanding at least the technical issues involved in this case.

Thanks for hearing my opinion.

Gary Von Colln